

# Federal Defenders OF NEW YORK, INC.

Southern District  
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May 31, 2022

**BY ECF**

The Honorable Alvin K. Hellerstein  
United States District Judge  
500 Pearl Street  
New York, New York 10007  
Fax: (212) 805-7942

Re: **United States v. Eric Cruz**  
**19 Cr. 775 (AKH)**

Dear Judge Hellerstein:

I write with the consent of the United States Probation Department to request the Court's permission for Mr. Cruz to travel internationally to Cuba from June 11, 2022, to June 18, 2022.

As the Court may recall, Mr. Cruz practices Palo Mayombe, a religion that developed in Cuba. He would like to travel to Cuba for religious purposes in order complete several ceremonial rites.

Mr. Cruz was released from prison and commenced his term of supervised release on February 25, 2021. He is employed and has been in full compliance with his conditions of supervision. If the Court grants this request, Mr. Cruz will provide his Probation Officer with his itinerary and travel details and remain in contact as directed.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Amy Gallicchio

Amy Gallicchio  
Assistant Federal Defender  
(212) 417-8728 / (917) 612-3274

cc: AUSA Kedar Bhatia  
USPO Sonales Gonzalez

*As Ordered.*  
*X /s/ Alvin K. Hellerstein*  
*6/2/2022*